



State Legislative Update for the Week of May 5 - 9, 2014

Monday, May 5, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF1918, a bill authorizing women veterans special license plates, placed on Special Orders, passed the Senate on a vote of 54-9.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF2852, the Omnibus Game and Fish bill, passed the House unanimously, 130-0. Of veterans interest are the provisions that state a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for free angling licenses, deer hunting licenses and small game licenses available to certain disabled veterans.

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF1915, a bill relating to peace officers; providing reciprocity for military experience, was read for the third time and placed upon its final passage. The bill passed unanimously, 129-0.

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Ways and Means

Chair: Rep. Lyndon Carlson

HF2490 (Hausman): Omnibus Capital Investment bill. The delete-all amendment to HF2490, the first engrossment, contains the following provisions of veterans interest:

- \$450,000 to design and construct a memorial in the Capitol Area to honor all Hmong Lao veterans of the war in Laos who were allied with the American forces during the Vietnam War;
- \$2,000,000 for the Camp Ripley/Veteran Trail;
- \$1,500,000 for asset preservation at the veterans homes in Fergus Falls, Hastings, Luverne, and Silver Bay, and the Little Falls state cemetery;
- \$730,000 to complete the design and perform repairs to stabilize the deep tunnel on the Minneapolis Veterans Homes campus;
- \$225,000 to design and construct the All Veterans Memorial in Edina; and,
- \$100,000 to design and construct a Veterans Memorial in North St. Paul to those who have served or are presently in the military of the United States of America and those who have died in the line of duty.

Total funding for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs would be \$2,555,000, which includes the funding for the two Veterans Memorials.

The Department of Military Affairs would receive \$2,000,000 for asset preservation and \$1,244,000 for the Brooklyn Park Armory Addition/Renovation.

The bill, as amended, was referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration.

Committee: Senate Capital Investment

Chair: Sen. LeRoy Stumpf

SF2605 (Stumpf): Omnibus Capital Investment bill. The delete-all amendment to the bill includes the following provisions of veterans interest:

- \$450,000 to design and construct a memorial in the Capitol Area to honor all Hmong Lao veterans of the war in Laos who were allied with the American forces during the Vietnam War;
- \$1,000,000 for asset preservation at veterans affairs facilities statewide;
- \$700,000 to complete the design and perform repairs to stabilize the deep tunnel on the Minneapolis Veterans Homes campus;
- \$1,840,000 to complete the design and perform improvements to resident rooms and renovation of the nursing station in the Luverne Veterans Home and to complete the design and renovate resident bathrooms in the Silver Bay Veterans Home;
- \$225,000 to design and construct the All Veterans Memorial in Edina;
- \$100,000 to design and construct a Veterans Memorial in North St. Paul to those who have served or are presently in the military of the United States of America and those who have died in the line of duty; and,
- \$175,000 for a grant to Wadena for construction of a Veterans Memorial in Sunnybrook Park.

Total funding for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs would be \$4,040,000, which includes the funding for the three Veterans Memorials.

The Department of Military Affairs would receive:

- \$3,000,000 for asset preservation at military affairs facilities statewide;

- \$1,244,000 to renovate, furnish and equip the Brooklyn Park Armory; and,
- \$1,381,000 to renovate, furnish and equip existing space and construct motor vehicle storage lot space at the Owatonna Armory.

The bill passed, as amended, and was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF2092, a bill authorizing a veteran's special motorcycle plate for combat wounded veterans was placed on Special Orders. The bill, as amended, passed 57-6.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

Committee Hearing

Committee: Senate Finance

Chair: Sen. Richard Cohen

SF2605 (Stumpf): Omnibus Capital Investment bill. The bill was amended and recommended to pass.

Conference Committee

HF3167, Omnibus Supplemental Tax Bill.

Chairs: Rep. Ann Lenczewski and Sen. Rod Skoe

Of veterans interest, to date, the committee has accepted Article 4, section 7 which extends the existing military pay subtraction to National Guard members in Active Guard/Reserve and individuals in active status under the state adjutant general; and, Senate Article 4, section 13 that increases the credit amount from \$750 to \$1,500 for individuals who separated from military service before the end of the year and served at least 20 years in the military, had a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent total and permanent, or were honorably discharged and receive a pension or other retirement pay for service in the military.

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF2852, the Omnibus Game and Fish bill, passed the Senate on a vote of 62-1. The sections of veterans interest state that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for a

free angling license, free deer hunting license and/or a free small game license available to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

Friday, May 9, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None